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It lies within the power of preachers and teachers to play a very important rôle in reducing the death rate. They are the persons to whom many people look to set the example. If preachers and teachers themselves permit the yards of churches and schools to be defiled by soil pollution, it need not be thought strange if farmers permit soil pollution to occur around the homes. Further, it should be recalled that every church and every school around which soil pollution is permitted to occur may act as a disease-breeding center from which infection can be spread to the farms and homes. Further, also, not only can preachers and teachers do good by setting an example in preventing soil pollution, but if they will point out to their friends the dangers which this pernicious habit carries with it, they can be very important factors in inducing the public to institute more sanitary customs, and thereby they can be important factors in reducing the death rate.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Reports from San Francisco, Cal.—Plague-prevention work at San Francisco, Oakland, and Point Richmond, and in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, Cal.

Surgeon Blue reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Date of last case of human plague: Sickened, January 30, 1908.
Date of last case of rodent plague: October 23, 1908.

Week ended July 10, 1909.

Sick inspected	2
Plague	0
Dead inspected	113
Plague	0
Premises inspected	1,645
Houses disinfected	37
Houses destroyed	1
Buildings condemned	9
Nuisances abated	139
Rats found dead	10
Rats trapped	1,580
Total rats taken	1,590
Rats identified:	
Mus norvegicus	1,160
Mus rattus	65
Mus musculus	352
Mus alexandrinus	7
Total	1,584
Rats identified as to sex:	
Male	597
Female	595
Total	1,192
Rats examined bacteriologically	1,112
Plague rats	0
Poisons placed	42,262

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. (EXCLUSIVE OF OAKLAND).

Week ended July 10.

Dead inspected	40
Plague	0
Necropsies held	2

OAKLAND, CAL.

Date of last case of human plague: Sickened, July 17, 1908.
Date of last case of rodent plague: Trapped, December 1, 1908.

Week ended July 10.

Dead inspected	21
Plague	0
Premises inspected	502
Premises reinspected	228
Premises cleaned	68
Places made rat-proof	1
Garbage cans installed	24
Nuisances abated	86
Rats found dead	44
Rats trapped	651
Rats identified	716
Mus norvegicus	690
Mus rattus	5
Mus musculus	21
Ground squirrels caught	137
Rats examined bacteriologically	716
Plague rats	0
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically	137
Plague squirrels	0

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CAL. (EXCLUSIVE OF POINT RICHMOND).

Date of last case of human plague: Sickened, July 21, 1908.
Date of last case of rodent plague: Found, June 18, 1909.

Week ended July 10.

Dead inspected	1
Plague	0
Ground squirrels shot	1,449
Ground squirrels found dead	16
Ground squirrels trapped	1
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically	843
Ground squirrels infected with B. pestis	14
Ranches inspected	156

Plague-infected ground squirrels obtained from the following places:

June 30, 1909.	
Lynch's ranch (near San Ramon)	1
July 2, 1909.	
Keller's ranch (near Clayton)	1
Azeveda ranch (Morgan territory)	1
July 6, 1909.	
Keller's ranch (near Clayton)	3
July 7, 1909.	
McCabe ranch (near Byron)	1
Nortonville road	1
Keller's ranch (near Clayton)	2
Naphthaly ranch (near Walnut Creek)	1

July 8, 1909.

Naphthaly ranch (near Walnut Creek)	1
Joaquin ranch (near Clayton)	2

POINT RICHMOND, CAL.

Week ended July 3.

Premises inspected	150
Nuisances abated	9
Rats found dead	6
Poisons placed	2,100

Week ended July 10.

Sick inspected	2
Plague	0
Dead inspected	4
Plague	0

Report from Seattle, Wash.—Plague-prevention work.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover reports, July 13:

SEATTLE, WASH.

Date of finding of last plague rat, September 26, 1908.

Week ended July 10, 1909.

Rats received	706
Rats necropsied	567
Plague rats found	0
Plague-infected rats to date	21

STATISTICAL REPORTS OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES—UNTABULATED.

CALIFORNIA—*Los Angeles.*—Month of June, 1909. Estimated population, 300,000. Total number of deaths reported, 326, corresponding to an annual death rate of 12.96 per 1,000 of population, including enteric fever 5, scarlet fever 1, whooping cough 2, diphtheria 2, and 60 from tuberculosis. Cases of contagious diseases reported: Diphtheria 12, enteric fever 21, scarlet fever 44, measles 14, and tuberculosis 53.

City and county of San Francisco.—Month of May, 1909. Estimated population, 475,000. Total number of deaths, 535, corresponding to an annual death rate of 13.44 per 1,000 of population, including measles 4, enteric fever 4, whooping cough 4, scarlet fever 1, diphtheria 5, and 79 from tuberculosis. Cases: Diphtheria 66, scarlet fever 50, smallpox 7, measles 192, whooping cough 70, enteric fever 15, and tuberculosis 110.

CONNECTICUT.—Month of June, 1909. Reports to the state board of health from 168 towns having an aggregate population of 1,038,240 show as follows: Total number of deaths from all causes, 1,210, corresponding to an annual death rate of 13.9 per 1,000 of population,